

# PREMIER SIGNAL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND

Vol. 5, AUTUMN 2012 EDITION

PAGE 16

Okinawa  
to  
Japan!  
78th ESB  
assumes  
58th  
mission

PAGE 12

Transitions

FOCUS ON  
KOREA



# PREMIER SIGNAL

Volume 5—AUTUMN 2012 Edition

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### ON THE COVER

Photo illustration by Chelsee J. Yee, 311th Sig. Cmd.

Forty feet above a troop-filled Palm Circle, Staff Sgt. Neil Ward, a semaphore bearer from the 78th Signal Battalion in Camp Zama, Japan, silently commands with the visual communication of the flags. The Signal Corps semaphore flags were used to direct the entire 311th Signal Command (Theater) change of command ceremony Aug. 15.

Photo by Crista Mary Mack, 311th Sig. Cmd.

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## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

The goal of the 311th Signal Command's Public Affairs Office is to feature stories in this publication that represent units from all over our command's region of responsibility: the Pacific Theater. We are always seeking stories that would be of interest to all of our readers, including our Soldiers, Civilian employees and our Families. Contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all manuscripts. Story ideas as well as written articles and photos for consideration should be emailed to [liana.mayo@us.army.mil](mailto:liana.mayo@us.army.mil), or call 808-438-4095.



**BRIGADIER GENERAL  
WILLIAM J. SCOTT**

FORMER COMMANDING  
GENERAL, 311TH SIGNAL  
COMMAND  
G6, U.S. ARMY, PACIFIC

—*Theater Voice*—  
*One Team!*



**A**loha!  
.....and, Aloha.

It's hard to believe that 2 years have flown by so quickly! What's more amazing is how much this incredible Command has accomplished, and how far we've come, in that period of time. The Pacific Theater is such an opportunity-rich environment, with so many engagement and operational activities going on simultaneously – each with critical importance to the DoD and our Nation. The 311th Signal Command, in conjunction with the S6's, G6's, Signal Companies, and other IT professionals serving “from Hollywood to Bollywood”, are absolutely the very best and finest in the world at meeting this mission.

Paula and I feel indescribably proud and fortunate to have been members of this Team for the past two years. As a leader, the hallmark of success is measured in how well your subordinate leaders and your organization are prepared and able to continue moving forward on a clear path, with great momentum and certainty, in achieving the mission after you're gone. I have zero doubt about this Team's ability to do exactly that! And you're receiving a fantastic new leader in MG James Walton.

I firmly believe that each of you will look back some day at the awesome achievements accomplished during this time, in this Theater, and be both amazed and proud! I am proud to have served with you, and I would fight for the chance to serve with you again, anytime and anywhere. And always remember -- Our Families are the Strength of our Soldiers; Our Soldiers are the Strength of our Army; and our Army is the Strength of our Nation.

**Theater Voice! One Team! Army Strong!**

**BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM J. SCOTT  
Former Commanding General,  
311th Signal Command (Theater)**

**A**loha. With focus shifting from conflicts in the East to sharpening our Garrison discipline, it is increasingly critical for leaders to provide balanced leadership for their Soldiers. So we continue to sharpen our skills.

Garrison Leadership is simply ensuring good order, discipline and leadership. It means maintaining and enforcing proper military customs and courtesies, traditions, and wear and appearance of the military uniform, just to name a few. In order make this happen, we need to get back to the basics.

The “Back to the Basics” movement is the future of the Army. We as leaders have to know what the standards are ourselves, and be able to surpass those standards.

Here at the 311th Signal Command (Theater), we recently started operation “Quick Look,” one of several initiatives we've incorporated to improve garrison leadership proficiency. This consists of all master sergeants, sergeants major, command sergeants major, lieutenant colonels and above to take an Army Physical Fitness Test and weigh-in with the commander and command sergeant major. This demonstrates that we, as leaders, know and meet the standards.

It's essential to understand that leading, coaching, training, mentoring and developing Soldiers is a full-contact sport.

Our phenomenal training is paying big dividends, reflected most recently by Sgt. 1st Class Ty Patrick and Sgt. Richard Wyce, the 2012 311th Non-commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year, respectively, who both went on to win the Network Enterprise Technology Command Warrior Challenge, and represented all of NETCOM at the Forces Command level. I'm extremely proud of them and all Soldiers who push themselves to go above and beyond.

Additional initiatives include our newly established Command Retirement Program, which recognizes all retiring members of the command (Civilian and Military) with an official ceremony. The first ceremony was conducted at Palm Circle when we retired six

# NOTES

Aloha Team Signal of the Pacific!

What a dynamic time to be a Cyber Warrior, especially here in the Pacific region! With so many ongoing changes within the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility and in our command, we face incredible new opportunities to accomplish and refine our objectives in support of the Army's Global Network Enterprise construct and emerging Cyber Operations of Army Cyber Command.

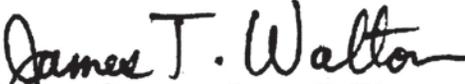
The focus of this volume five of our magazine is on Korea. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see some of you in action this past week in Korea, efficiently and effectively supporting the Combined Forces Command exercise there, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which with each passing year continues to strengthen the readiness of both Republic of Korea and U.S. forces, and our invaluable partnership.

From what I have witnessed so far of our team dispatched across this great theater, I see a capable, enthusiastic and diverse network Active Component and Reserve Soldiers, Department of Army Civilians, college interns, contractors and coalition partners working together toward our common goals.

I am humbled and honored to be here with you in the Pacific, and I look forward to working alongside you, taking on the challenges that will come our way, and creating solutions together.

We hope you enjoy this Autumn 2012 edition of "Premier Signal," our official publication of the 311th Signal Command, which continues to share your great voices from the Pacific.

**Theater Voice -- One Team!**

  
**MAJOR GENERAL JAMES T. WALTON**  
**Commanding General**  
**311th Signal Command (Theater)**

NCOs. This enabled Soldiers and leaders to see what right looked like. Outstanding!

Other programs being fine-tuned are the Junior Leader and Leader Development programs. We are empowering junior Soldiers to conduct Physical Readiness Training to standard, along with learning how to call cadence and direct formations.

Our own command went back to the basics recently at the 311th Change of Command, during which we incorporated the traditional semaphore flags into the ceremony.

I want to wish farewell to Brig. Gen. Scott, my battle buddy for the last 24 months, and wish him well on his deployment to Afghanistan. I also want to give a special thanks to key leaders within the command who supported me, Sgt. Maj. Michael Slocumb, G2 Sergeant Major, also now deployed at the time of this publication, Master Sgt. (P) Roxanne Salisbury, career counselor, and the many other senior NCOs from throughout the command that have left.

I'm looking forward to working with my new Battle Buddy, Maj. Gen. James T. Walton. We had the opportunity to serve together before downrange at Camp Arifjan where he was commander of the 335th Signal Command (Provisional) and I was Command Sergeant Major of the 160th Signal Brigade. MG Walton is a leader who is on point and ready to take this command to the next level. Welcome to the team, Sir!

**Theater Voice!**

  
**KEVIN J. THOMPSON**  
**Command Sergeant Major**  
**311th Signal Command (Theater)**



**MAJOR GENERAL**  
**JAMES T. WALTON**

**COMMANDING GENERAL,**  
**311TH SIGNAL COMMAND**  
**G6, U.S. ARMY, PACIFIC**

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**  
**KEVIN J. THOMPSON**

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR**  
**311TH SIGNAL COMMAND**  
**G6, U.S. ARMY, PACIFIC**



# Q and A

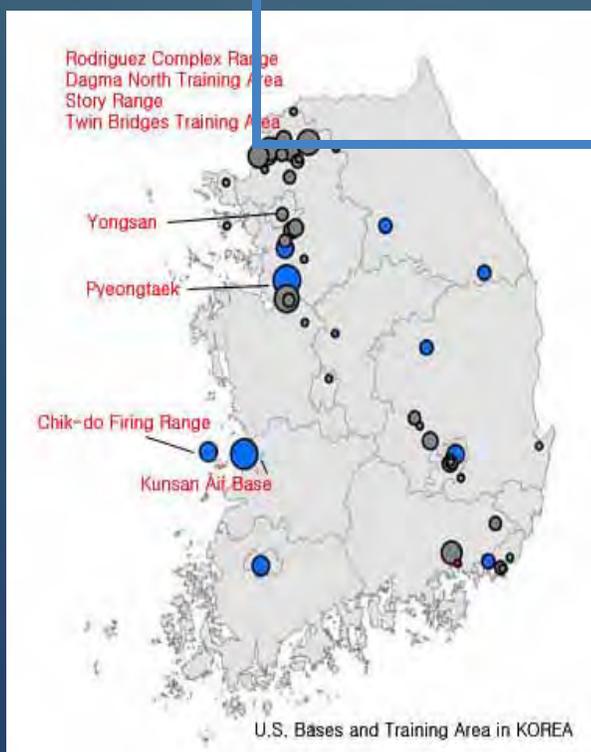
AN INTERVIEW WITH  
BRIG. GEN.  
WILLIAM J. SCOTT

*Q* – What is the Korea Joint Network Assessment (KJNA), and what are its goals?

*A* – The Commanding General, United States Forces Korea (USFK), along with the other senior Army leaders in Korea, requested the Army take an outside look at USFK's infrastructure and modernization plans, to ensure they are synchronized with Department of Defense and Army modernization efforts and current technological capabilities. In response, the Department of the Army Chief Information Officer (CIO/G6) formed a task force composed of representatives from Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), the Army, Air Force, Marine, and Navy forces of United States Pacific Command, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM), Army Program Executive Offices for Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) and Command, Control and Communications-Tactical (PEO C3T), Network Enterprise Technology Command, the 311th Signal Command, and the 1st Signal Brigade in Korea. This joint task force, facilitated by the U.S. Army, Pacific's G6 team, will help validate USFK's plans and help the road to achieving their goals into the future.

*Q* – How does the KJNA affect Army Signal organizations in the Pacific?

*A* – The KJNA task force is laying the groundwork to transform the C4I architecture, infrastructure and tactical extension capabilities in Korea to the foundation of the future DoD network. The task force is looking at injecting technologies, C2 systems, and increased capacities that will improve performance and reliability for the US and Korean forces across the peninsula. We are doing this in conjunction with the incredibly ambitious Yongsan Relocation Program (YRP) and Land Partnership Program (LPP), capitalizing on these opportunities to transform to a unified capabilities (UC) and everything over IP (EOIP) approach. Leaders are using the Joint Information Environment (JIE) framework to deliver these capabilities. Every capability is being looked at from a joint and combined perspective, to ensure Korea is the showcase of joint and combined warfighting capability. Our Signal professionals (Soldiers and Civilians), along with our enabling Combat Service Support teammates, are absolutely essential in achieving these goals in the critical Pacific Theater - DoD's primary focus for the future.



*Q* – What do Pacific network and cyber professionals, as well as our fellow Warfighters, need to be doing to realize the full opportunities of this new Joint Network?

*A* – In order to achieve a global DoD enterprise, governance becomes a critical part of information Technology service delivery. Our governance structure must be able to take the Warfighters' requirements into account, while delivering world-class information technology that is effective, secure, efficient, and synchronized with commercial best business practices. We must ensure the enabling programs, including the delivery of Capability Set 13 to 2nd Infantry Division, remain on track through aggressive in-progress reviews. The journey from independent service networks a single Joint Enterprise Network and the Joint Information Enterprise has evolved and taken shape over a long period of time. Achievement of these goals are within reach, but will only be realized through the technical acumen, dedication to duty, and mission focus that are the hallmark of the 311th Signal Command and USARPAC communicators.

# KOREA

## THEN AND NOW



Story by Capt. Joseph Agius, 293rd Signal Company  
Company Commander, 36th Signal Battalion  
Photo Illustration by Spc. Jacob Kohrs

**D**AEGU, Korea – Senior Leaders from the 36th Signal Battalion had the honor of conducting a Staff Ride to Pork Chop Hill with William James (Jim) Hosking, an 83 year old Korean War Veteran from Ferndale, Michigan, May 18. Hosking returned to South Korea on May 14 for the first time in over 60 years in order to share his experiences and see what’s changed since serving.

Jim referred to his first trip as, “My Korean Vacation.”

“I would not take a million dollars to relive the experience but would not trade the experience for a million dollars as well,” stated Hosking.

Hosking landed in Inchon Dec. 5, 1951 as a 60mm mortar Infantryman serving in “F” Co of the 180th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, under the 45th Infantry Division.



Photos Courtesy of William J. Hosking. Bottom photo from left to right Lt. Col Name, Jim Hosking and Lt. Col. Kim Song Kak

Their area of operation was nicknamed “Pork Chop Hill,” “T-bone Hill” and “Old Baldy.” While on combat control, Hosking’s mortar team was digging

a new mortar pit and came across a frozen Chinese Soldier. After excavating the frozen earth they found a whistle around his neck and a compass in his hand, both made in the United States. They also found a wallet with money and photos of his family. It made the men realize that their enemy was not too dissimilar to themselves. Only a few years prior, Hosking said, “the Chinese were on our side and now they faced off against us just hoping to make it home to their families, just like us.”

According to Hosking, it gave the men a certain respect for their enemy

but did not change their mission. Hosking shared many stories of bloody battles and sacrifices that painted an unfortunate but necessary picture of recent history in Korea.

After so many years away, Hosking said he was amazed to see the wonderful progress and modern way of life that now exists in Korea.

Whether grocery shopping at Hyundai Department Store or visiting

Lt. Col. Kim, Song Kak, ROKA 5th ID, 36th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion Commander, Hosking said everyone has been extremely kind and generous to him. “I now see the labors of my blood, sweat and tears in the optimistic faces of our South Korean friends and know we made a difference by our actions 60 years ago,” said Hosking.



Top three photos courtesy of William J. Hosking  
 Patch is 45th infantry Division  
 Center map shows front lines  
 with T-bone Hill, Pork  
 Chop Hill and Old Baldy.  
 Three lower photos are photo  
 of (in order from right to  
 left) T-bone Hill, Old Baldy  
 and Pork Chop Hill.



Hill Section  
 Photo courtesy of knike.com

Photo courtesy of historyguy.com

Photo courtesy of qsl.net

# ROK STEADY...

62 years of cease fire under the Armistice Agreement... a signal of enduring commitment to peace and security



By Lt. Col. Christopher Heath,  
311th Signal Command

As the United States Forces Command (USFK) transforms to the Korean Command (KORCOM), the Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP)/ Land Partnership Plan (LPP) is focused to change the landscape of communications and U.S. personnel tour assignments on the Korean Peninsula. YRP/LPP is an integral part of the “Strategic Alliance 2015,” a synchronized effort to shift the U.S. lead for combined defense to the Republic of Korea (ROK). This includes not only OPCON transition—with the attendant ROK capabilities to lead the way in December 2015—but it also consolidates U.S. bases into two hubs, incorporates tour normalization, and management of U.S. forces in Korea within broader, world-wide mission requirements.

The two plans together will close antiquated and inefficient installations, improve quality of life, increase safety, and achieve cost savings. YRP/LPP will transform United States Army Garrison (USAG) Humphreys to be the third largest US Army base in the world swelling the population by over 271%.

According to a Library of Congress source, senate report 112-026, the end result of YRP/LPP is a reduction of the 104 different USFK sites in 2002 to just 48 with the majority of forces clustered in two main locations, or hubs--Osan Air Base/USAG Humphreys and USAG Daegu--that contains five enduring sites.”

First, YRP will move approximately 5,000 U.S. military personnel and their families from USAG

Yongsan to USAG Humphreys, about 40 miles south of Seoul. The plan calls for the ROK to fund much of the construction costs, except the construction of replacement housing for military members and their families, which will be the funding responsibility of the US. The second, LPP will relocate 2nd Infantry Division from areas near the Demilitarized Zone to USAG Humphreys. As these movements of personnel occur, tours will be normalized to be consistent with other overseas assignments. New tour lengths will be three years for accompanied service members and two years for unaccompanied service members or those without dependents.

Under the YRP/LPP umbrella, USFK J6 is seizing an opportunity to lay the technical foundation for Department of Defense (DOD) Joint initiatives in Korea. The monumental task of supporting YRP/LPP and transforming the Army network to support USFK was given to Task Force (TF) Mercury.

TF Mercury was established to bring USFK, the services and the enablers like Army Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC) and Program Executive Officer, Enterprise Information Systems (PEO-EIS) together to unify everyone’s effort and to synchronize with our ROK allies. Col. Fredenburgh, the 1st Signal Brigade commander, was given the mission of forging the dream team and coordinating with the ROKs while USAG Humphreys is being built.

The complexity of moving all the C4I systems while

the installation facilities go up around them baffles the mind, as the move must allow the C4I systems to remain online and reliable to support the armistice mission during the build and transition.

Naturally, the systems cannot just be moved so they are being replaced by a newer technology that will not only save both governments money but establish a Department of Defense (DoD) show place for what can be accomplished in a bilateral partnership.

Voice is one of the systems undergoing a tectonic paradigm shift. The current voice systems can no longer be maintained or supported because the manufacturer is no longer in business. TF Mercury is planning to implement Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) which collapses the voice network into the data network to reduce some of the cost in transfer, operation, and maintenance of the voice system. The DoD mandated the migration to everything over IP (EoIP) in the early 2000. However, due to the initial investment and complexity of a migration to VOIP the majority of DoD has not migrated yet.

“I believe these efforts in Korea places the Pacific in a position to be the leader in achieving a fully Joint Information Environment in accordance with DoD directives and guidance,” said Mike Brown, senior civilian, 1st Signal Brigade. “Achieving this goal will enhance our mission commander’s global reach capability, both in a joint and coalition environment, to execute mission, under any condition, anywhere in the Pacific Region.”

The tactical arenas, which are light years ahead, are the exception. Many of the lessons learned from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi

Freedom are being applied with the guidance from DoD and Department of the Army to a truly unified communications platform to the war fighter.

The new paradigm will unify data services and collaboration tools with voice and video. This will enable commands to maximize the capabilities of the C4I network for the first time outside of the tactical arena.

A state of the art communication center to be built in 2016 to house the new technology is anticipated to be the fulcrum in which TF Mercury may streamline all information technology services under a Joint Information Environment. The new facility will consolidate the multitude of communications facilities located at USAG Yongsan, reducing the complexity and cost of the entire program.

These efforts will only strengthen intelligence, operations, planning, execution, and joint battlefield management capabilities and support an even stronger ROK-US partnership.



# 78th Signal Battalion receives Army Superior Unit Award for disaster support

*-- ASUA is the unit's  
second in three years!*



By Maj. Duncan Adams,  
Executive Officer, 78th Signal Battalion  
Photos and graphics courtesy of U.S. Army Japan  
Public Affairs office and 78th Signal Battalion

**CAMP ZAMA, Japan**—Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and 287th Signal Company, 78th Signal Battalion, 516th Signal Brigade, received the Army Superior Unit Award for the unit's direct support of Operation Tomodachi, on January 11th, 2012. The award recognized that from 11 March to 5 May 2011, the 78th Signal Battalion and its subordinate units displayed outstanding meritorious service in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and

crippled the Tohoku region of Japan. It is the second ASUA the battalion has received in three years.

A disaster assessment team from United States Army Japan/I Corps (Forward), including 287th Sig Co Radio Operator/Maintainer Sgt. Travis Lang, departed Camp Zama and arrived in Sendai,

Northeastern Japan two days after the earthquake. With the level of destruction to the infrastructure and overall saturation of the Japanese cellular network, Lang was assigned responsibility for establishing over-the-horizon



single channel satellite voice communications for the USARJ/ICF DAT. This line of communication was critical for the DAT team to provide damage assessment reports to the USARJ command, and integrate the ICF tactical air command with the Commanding General, 3d Marine Division and Joint Forces Land Component Command.

In direct response to Japan's request for additional disaster assistance, the 78th Signal Battalion SIPR/NIPR Access Point Team deployed to support both Sendai Airport and Sendai Ishinomaki



resultant Tsunami and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Complex disasters that temporarily



Sporting Facility. At both of these locations, the team provided critical communication support to 3d MEF and Logistics Task Force 35, the U.S. Army logistics command responsible for supporting “Operation Shower Power” (showering facilities for those evacuees impacted by the ravaged tsunami areas), “Operation Field Day” (school reconstruction efforts), and “Operation Warm Wind” (a cooperative effort to bring kerosene fuel for heating and cooking). Team LTF-35 required SNAP services to battle track convoys that support logistics package missions, and network access to Defense Connect Online, the collaboration tool utilized by the JFLCC commander for all mission updates via a commander’s update brief forum from March 11 to May 5, 2011.

Asked about the about the unit’s multiple areas of support for the joint forces humanitarian mission, Master Sgt. Christopher Elliot, S-3 non-commissioned officer in charge, commented “It was a joint effort between all facets of 78th Signal Battalion that truly represented Ichi Dan.” [“Ichi Dan” is the USARJ motto, meaning “One Team,” in Japanese].

The 78th Sig Bn received their first ASUA, in

2009, for demonstrating superior ability to perform and accomplish the mission to a standard which far exceeded all requirements—specifically, being first U.S. Army unit to pass the Department of the Army Inspector General’s Information Assurance Inspection—for the period of October 1, 2008 to August 1, 2009.



# TRANS



**COL  
MARK  
ELLIOTT**  
1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE



**BG  
WILLIAM  
SCOTT**  
311TH SIGNAL  
COMMAND



**CSM  
ROBERT  
BROWN**  
1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

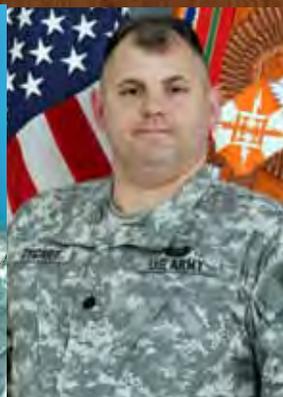
## THE OUTGOING



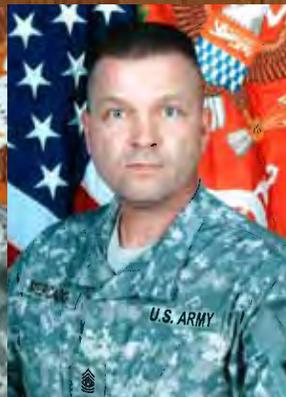
**COL  
SEENA  
TUCKER**  
41ST SIGNAL  
BATTALION



**LTC  
DANIEL  
BURNETT**  
6TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



**LTC  
CURTIS  
TYGART**  
78TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



**CSM  
HARRY  
MERCADO**  
36TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



**MSG  
TIMOTHY  
ERSKINE**  
6TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION

# ITIONS



COL PAUL  
FREDENBURGH  
III  
1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE



MG  
JAMES  
WALTON  
311TH SIGNAL  
COMMAND



CSM  
DARRIS  
CURRY  
1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

## THE INCOMING



LTC  
WARREN  
WOOD  
41ST SIGNAL  
BATTALION



CSM  
RUSSELL  
DE LEON  
41ST SIGNAL  
BATTALION



LTC  
LISA  
WHITTAKER  
78TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



CSM  
MYRON  
GETER  
36TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



CSM  
JOHN  
RONQUILLO  
6TH SIGNAL  
BATTALION



Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, commanding general, Network Enterprise Technology Command, hands the colors to incoming 311th Signal Command (Theater) commander Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, signifying the official assumption of command, as outgoing commanding general Brig. Gen. William J. Scott watches. (Photo by Crista Mary Mack, 311th Signal Command)

# 311TH CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



By Crista Mary Mack,  
311th Signal Command, PAO

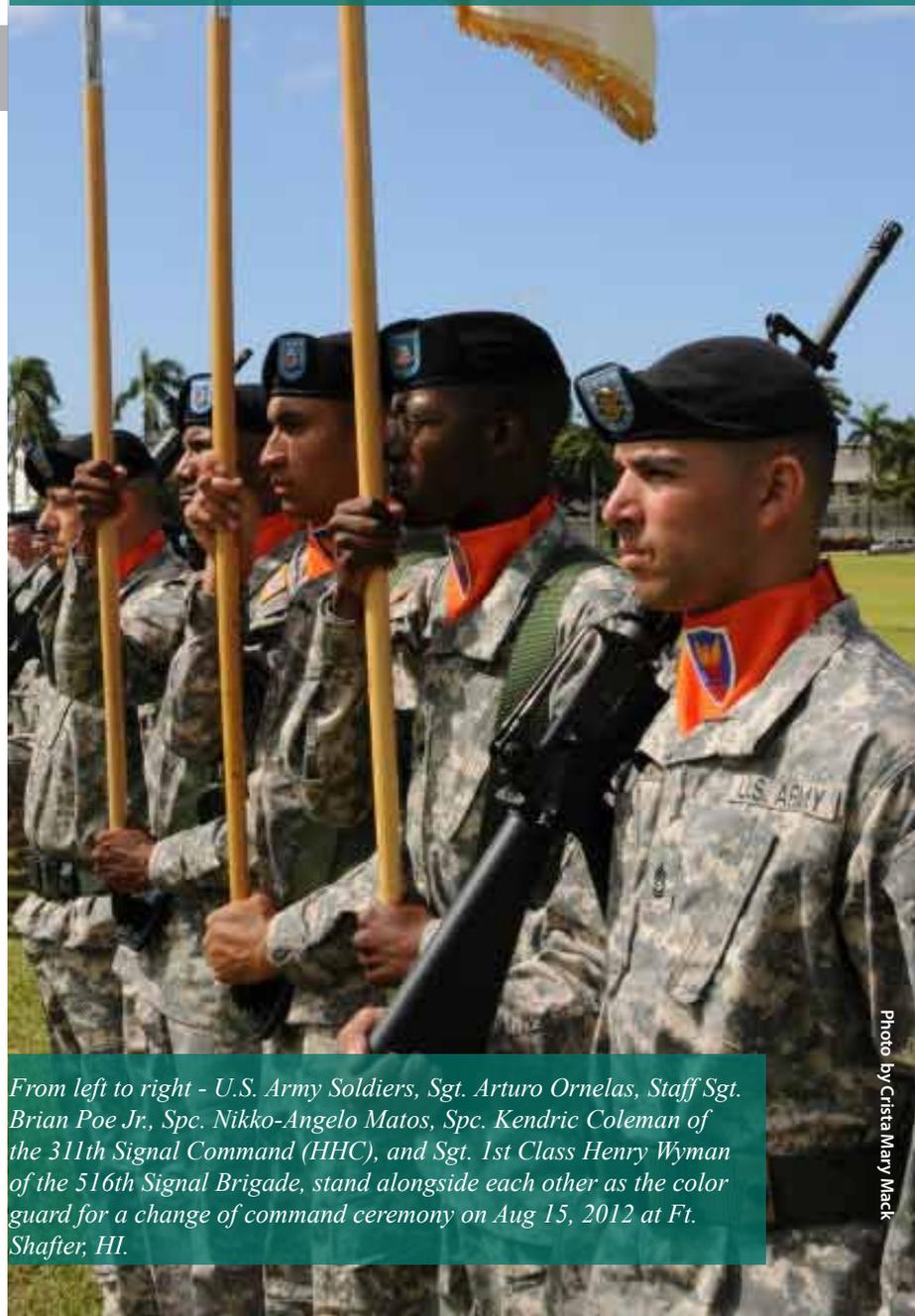
Red and white flags flapped in the wind as they moved decisively in the semaphore bearer's hands, breaking the silence of a troop-filled Palm Circle, Aug. 15.

Long before the advent of the radio, battlefield communications took the form of the semaphore flag. With each position representing different letters, numerals and special signs, semaphore bearers could signal an entire command to attention in complete silence.

The 311th Signal Command (Theater) paid homage to this historical means of communications by conducting the 311th change of command ceremony, during which Maj. Gen. James T. Walton assumed command from outgoing commander Brig. Gen. William Scott, utilizing the Signal Corps semaphore flags.

"This ceremony symbolizes the back to basics campaign," said outgoing commander Scott, who prepared for deployment to Afghanistan as the CJ6 for the International Security Assistance Force Combined Joint Communications within hours of relinquishing command.

Two Signaleers from the 78th Signal Battalion, 516th Signal Brigade, Camp Zama, Japan, silently communicated the orders for the entire ceremony using the visual communication of the two hand-held semaphore flags, commonly referred to as "Wig Wags." Traditionally, one Soldier sends signals, and a second Soldier receives and responds, both moving the flags through various positions. Semaphore bearer Sgt. 1st Class Faamasino Galoia signaled orders from the commander of troops on the ground to Staff Sgt. Neil Ward on a 40-ft. tower, who then silently



From left to right - U.S. Army Soldiers, Sgt. Arturo Ornelas, Staff Sgt. Brian Poe Jr., Spc. Nikko-Angelo Matos, Spc. Kendric Coleman of the 311th Signal Command (HHC), and Sgt. 1st Class Henry Wyman of the 516th Signal Brigade, stand alongside each other as the color guard for a change of command ceremony on Aug 15, 2012 at Ft. Shafter, HI.

Photo by Crista Mary Mack

communicated those orders to all the troops on the field.

“As the commander of troops, I had seen [semaphore flag demonstrations] before, but had never been a part of actually doing it,” said Brig. Gen. Janice M. Haigler, deputy commanding general, 311th SC (T).

BG Haigler noticed that although it was announced that the ceremony would be silent, some guests still looked confused, which illustrates how unusual of an experience it was. “It was definitely different to not yell out the commands. The silence of it gives a different perspective on the change of command.”

During the ceremony, BG Haigler silently directed a field filled with elements representing the entire theater in the Presentation of Command and Honors to the Nation. She then joined Walton, Scott, and Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, commanding general, Network Enterprise Technology Command and host commander, in a formal inspection of the troops.

The ceremony culminated with the traditional ceremonial passing of the unit’s colors, during which Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Thompson, 311th command sergeant major, passed the colors to the outgoing Scott, who then passed them to host commander MG Lynn, symbolizing the relinquishment of command. MG Lynn then passed the colors to MG Walton, representing the official assumption of command. MG Walton completed the cycle by passing the colors back to Thompson, who returned the 311th flag to

the color guard.

The event featured the musical accompaniment of the 25th Infantry Div. Tropic Lightning Band and a quartet of Army Reserve Soldiers, Spc. Anesigleenn Foifua, Spc. Toso Foifua, Spc. Christopher Amituanai, and Spc. Billy Mahnglaei, all from the 9th Mission Readiness Command, performed the National Anthem.

Although the 311th is headquartered in Hawaii, it is the designated Signal command across the Pacific theater. The 311th plans, builds, operates, defends and extends Army and Joint networks throughout. It ensures that information services and systems and communications are provided throughout the Pacific region under any conditions. It is also a multi-component command, which includes Active and Reserve Soldiers.

“The number and scope of this unit’s accomplishments is simply staggering,” said BG Scott. “The amount of opportunity that lies ahead here in the Pacific is absolutely unbelievable, and this team is the one that can and will seize it and take it to the next level.”

MG Walton comes to the 311th Signal Command and USARPAC from the Chief of Information, G6, where he last served as Director, Chief Integration Office CIO G6. “My assumption of command represents a change in personnel, not a change in policy or strategy,” said MG Walton. “To be sure, together with our partners, I will examine our effort to determine where refinements might be needed. To the Soldiers, Civilians,

Contractors and Families of the 311th, I pledge to do all that I can to provide the best leadership, direction and example that I can muster.”

MG Lynn spoke confidently about Walton’s new position commanding the 311th’s vast Signal mission.

“I know you’re ready for the challenge of the Pacific and everything it has for you in store,” said MG Lynn. “On behalf of the NETCOM folks worldwide, we welcome you to NETCOM and the 311th family.”

Although today’s Army no longer uses the visual flag system, the intent of the message, and the mission of the Signal Corps remains the same.



Photo by Chelsea Yee

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Faamasino Galoia, a semaphore bearer from the 78th Signal Battalion, Camp Zama, Japan, signals commands to a tower. The historical Signal Corps semaphore flags were used to command the field during the entire 311th Signal Command (Theater) change of command ceremony.



Left - From left to right, Brig. Gen. William J. Scott, Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, and Maj. Gen. James T. Walton salute the unit, Army, and National colors while the National Anthem plays during a change of command ceremony. Brig. Gen. Scott is relinquishing command of the 311th Signal Command to Maj. Gen. Walton. (photo by Crista Mary Mack, 311th Signal Command PAO)



Right - Brig. Gen. Janice Haigler, deputy commanding general, 311th Signal Command and commander of troops during the official 311th SC change of command ceremony, with Col. Sam Williams (center) and Maj. Joseph Foust (on left), salute during the conclusion of the ceremony. (photo by Chelsea Yee, 311th Signal Command PAO)



*58th Signal Battalion turns over  
operational control  
to 78th Signal Battalion*



*...extends area of operations from  
Honshu to Guam...*



By 2nd Lt. Alexander Horton,  
78th Signal Battalion

**CAMP ZAMA, Japan**—The 78th Signal Battalion, located in Camp Zama, Japan, and the 58th Signal Battalion, situated on Fort Buckner, Okinawa, recently underwent preparations to become one integrated unit, here, in October 2012. Due to the Headquarters, Department of the Army inactivation of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 58th Sig Bn, operational control of unit personnel and equipment was turned over to the 78th Sig Bn August 3rd.

The months leading up to the turnover proved challenging for the 516th Signal Brigade subordinate battalions. The 78th Sig Bn already controls an area of operations that extends from the northern tip of the island of Honshu to its southern end, in Hiroshima Prefecture.

The transition extends the area of operations south to include the 343rd Signal Company, and the

333rd Signal Company, in Okinawa, with personnel and equipment in Guam. 78th Sig Bn assumed the missions and equipment of 58th, including a Department of Defense Standardized Tactical Entry Point/Teleport, the Guam Regional Hub Node, and a Network Enterprise Center.

Despite the challenges, excitement surrounding the merger remained high among senior leaders and lower ranks, from both units, for the milestone transition.

“What an exciting and historical time for the Signal Corps and U.S. Army Japan ... I am especially excited to be a part of this awesome, yet very challenging endeavor,” said Command Sergeant Major Steven Caffee, 78th Sig Bn command sergeant major. “We will capitalize on the strengths and best business practices of each battalion, [and] then incorporate them across the entire organization,” he added.

“I like the merger because both battalions do well individually, but I feel that together we will be able to become more like a Swiss Army knife, and fulfill



a diverse range of mission requirements,” echoed Private 1st Class Jay McLennard, High Frequency Reference Division, 287th Signal Company, 78th Sig Bn.

As a result of the integration, 78th Sig Bn gained an additional 156 military personnel, 72 Department of the Army Civilians and 58 Master Labor Contractor employees. Because the majority of the personnel will be located in Okinawa, the transition will require the new integrated battalion S-3 and the Chaplain to be located there, as well.

“I expect everyone to be professional, and I know there will be challenges when it comes to getting to know the other Soldiers and Civilians in each unit,” commented Sgt 1st Class Raymond Thornton, Telecommunications Operations Chief, 58th Sig Bn, shortly before the two battalions became one. “I have no doubt that we will come together to accomplish whatever mission that comes our way.”

This split operation will prove to be a continual challenge, requiring frequent coordination by VTC and teleconference. To compound logistical considerations, because the 78th Signal Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Lisa Whittaker, will remain in Camp Zama at the unit Headquarters, the command team and other key personnel will spend a significant amount of time traveling between the two locations.

The transition now supports signal missions in Japan and Guam. It further provides a unique opportunity for the battalion command team to execute organizational leadership while teaching and coaching junior leaders exercising increased levels of responsibility and autonomy.

“We will continue to streamline our processes and get lean,” assured Caffee, exclaiming “Team 78th: Hooah!”

## HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 58th...

- ✦ **The 333rd Signal Company won the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence at the NETCOM level in 2011 and the Brigade level in 2012**
- ✦ **Won the Army Cup Week on Okinawa for the last two years consecutively**
- ✦ **In 2011 the 58th Signal Battalion won the “Best Antiterrorism Program in the StandAlone Facility Category” for the Army**
- ✦ **The 349th Signal Company won the Network Enterprise Center of the year in 2012**
- ✦ **Although the name has changed and the battalion structure modified frequently over the years, our mission has remained the same: to be the “Voice of the Army” and the voice of the U.S. government agencies located on Okinawa**





# 311th SC (T) Network Service Center - Pacific finds New Home at Ford Island



By Maj. Derek Ousby and 1st Lt. Mark Cucina,  
4th Signal Center/Pacific TNOSC

**F**ORD ISLAND, Hawaii— One of the top priorities of the Commanding General, 311th Signal Command (Theater), is to implement a Combined Operating Concept in conjunction with the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Network Center Pacific (DNC-P), at Ford Island.

To this end, Network Service Center-Pacific (NSC-P), a matrix organization comprising elements of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) G2 Intelligence Division, its G3 Current Operations Division, the 516th Signal Brigade Operations Division, the 4th Signal Center/Pacific Theater Network Operations Security Center and

the Regional Computer Emergency Response Team – Pacific, this team titled Network Service Center-Pacific has embarked on a new mission at its new Ford Island location April 9th.

The purpose behind NSC-P's presence at Ford Island is to gain enhanced situational understanding and increased network agility of DISA-Pacific operations towards both strategic and tactical communication needs for Army, Joint and Coalition generating and operating forces within the Pacific Theater.

After DISA and the NSC-P seamlessly planned and coordinated the installation of Army network equipment and communication

circuits, DISA provided this new team with modern, efficient work stations in the new state-of-the-art DISA Network Center-Pacific (DNC-P) at Building 77, where 120 DNC-P and NSC-P personnel are now housed. A stone's throw from the Pacific Aviation Museum and the historic Battleship Missouri Memorial, the new location is an ideal place to centralize LandWarNet Pacific efforts.

“The Network Service Center - Pacific presence in the DISA NetOps Center Pacific at Ford Island enhances our ability to leverage the Intelligence, NetOps and enclave management assets of our joint and service mission partners to amplify the capabilities

of the Army Pacific Warfighter,” emphasized 4th Signal Center / PAC-TNOSC Director, Lt. Col. Kenneth Lawrence.

Thriving integration and collaboration with DISA Pacific NetOps partners provides the Network Service Center -Pacific with a view of all 19 global DISA Enterprise Email (DEE) PODs/Mini-PODs (self-contained installations with all the hardware needed to maintain EE) via DISA’s formula application. This capability enables the PLOC to have a near real-time situational awareness of the DEE PODs supporting the LWN-P, and helps the team more quickly resolve issues that affect the customer.

As an example of immediate synergy, TNOSC Authorized Scheduled Interruption Manager Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Gaithe and DISA ASI Manager Electronics Technician Second Class Josh Humbert collaborated to coordinate an emergency ASI so that maintenance could be performed on a Guam SATCOM link. The benefit of having both ASI managers co-located, increased coordination responses, decreased processing timeliness, and ensured customer notifications were

established quickly. In the past, the minimum turnaround time for an un-forecasted ASI was one week; the before-mentioned ASI, however, was accomplished in just 48 hours.

The RCERT-Pacific Threat Analysis Team has also developed a new threat indicator of malicious activity as a result of the move. Rebecca Ford, RCERT-Pacific, and Miki Malbon, Cyber Fusion Threat Cell Lead, share and discuss indicators and signatures affecting both LWN-P and DNC-P customers. With the help of DISA PAC’s TNC Cyber Fusion Cell, new DISA open source network intrusion prevention and detection system signatures are being developed to detect similar activity. The new threat signatures will be disseminated to DISA Global Information Grid Operations for potential global implementation. Cyber threat analysis and collaboration of this nature now occurs on a daily basis lending credence to the Hawaiian proverb: Pupukahi I holomua: “Unite to move forward.”

These are just some examples where Network events previously followed a NETOPS reporting chain that was hierarchical in design. Through this new joint partnership with

DISA-Pacific, the NSC-P has flattened the NETOPS reporting hierarchy in order to provide all stakeholders a more agile and responsive network operations framework. As the Network Service Center-Pacific soon enters into its fifth month of operations at Ford Island, the focus now is to improve the linkage of intelligence sharing network operations and incident response with the remaining signal formations residing on the Korean Peninsula. Initial coordination meetings have begun with elements of the 1st Signal Brigade and the 6th Signal Center Theater Network Operations Security Center in order to improve situational awareness and network response through virtual means to the collective team.

“Our collective book value has not changed from our previous task organization to our new formation, however our market value has grown considerably with this new theater-level organizational construct,” said Tom Stewart, the 311th SC (T) Assistance Deputy Chief of Staff, G3, his assessment of this joint partnership is one taken from a business vernacular.



**“As a doctrinal matter, the Pentagon has formally recognized cyberspace as a new domain in warfare... [which] has become just as critical to military operations as land, sea, air, and space.”**

**~William J. Lynn,  
U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense**

Photo by Liana Mayo



Brig. Gen. William Scott, 311th Signal Command (Theater) commanding general, addresses all components of the 311th SC headquarters during the "One Team" teambuilding training day. Active Component, Reserve Component and Active Guard Reserve Soldiers all serve the 311th as it is a multi-component unit and the day's events were a means by which to bring all Soldiers together for training. (photo by Spc. Nikko-Angelo Matos, 311th Signal Command)

# ONE VOICE TRAINING



By Crista Mary Mack,  
311th Signal Command, PAO

What is the glue that holds together a multi-component unit? The Active Component, Reserve and Active Guard Reserve Soldiers assigned to the 311th Signal Command (Theater) found out last weekend that together, they are that glue.

About 200 Soldiers from the three components convened and worked together at the unit's first "One Voice training" which included a discussion panel and several teambuilding exercises at Fort Shafter and Tripler Army Medical Center July 14.

The training combined "Theater Voice," the unit motto, and "One Team," the U.S. Army, Pacific motto, for its moniker. Teams engaged in timed exercises that forced them to accomplish tasks quickly as a team, in addition to a slew of other

scheduled events for the day.

"It's called 'One Voice,' because the focus was building a bridge to effective communication," said Master Sgt. Ava Williams, 311th SC equal opportunity representative and orchestrator of the training. "We are working towards truly having 'One Voice,' by communication and teamwork involving our Reserve Soldiers in our day to day work, thus facilitating better working together, as one voice."

"One Voice" training started with a command run, led by 311th SC Commanding General Brig. Gen. William Scott. Four platoons were organized by section rather than component, so that a Reserve specialist might be standing in formation next to an AC sergeant major and an AGR captain. This integration was a theme throughout the day.

The next major event was a panel discussion, mediated by Brig. Gen. Scott and 311th SC Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin

J. Thompson, during which representatives of each component fielded and questions and members of the audience were invited to discuss concerns and questions about command issues related specifically to the 311th being a multi-component unit.

"We are part of a very unique organization at the 311th Signal Command," said Brig. Gen. Scott. "Part of our challenge is to recognize that we have a unique environment that we need to adapt our training and our mission in order to account for what we are doing."

"It's one of the only organizations of its type in the entire Army, but there are a lot of organizations that say the same thing when they get together, and that's what makes our Army great," said Brig. Gen. Scott. "We are part of an organization that adapts to the mission that we have and that recognizes that change is going to be a constant, so this training is part of that continuing effort to improve how we do business."

Following the discussion panel, everyone broke into groups for multiple teambuilding exercises that included physically interactive team-oriented exercises that got everyone working together through communication and trust.

“This event was a great way for all of the 311th Soldiers, regardless of rank and component, to come together and bond by sharing experiences and ideas,” said Spc. Danielle Smith, 311th paralegal and Reserve Soldier. “It was a great opportunity to see the differences and similarities in other units. Even though we wear the same uniform and work side by side together, we don’t always know how the other component operates. Overall, I think it was a success and I look forward to being a part of more in the future.”

Participants completed the training in the afternoon with small group training at their respective individual sections.

“I was trying to think of something that fit, not just for 311th SC, but for multi-compo units coming to work together,” said Williams. “Once we set the groundwork for teambuilding and having that trust and communications amongst the team members from section to section, it all fell into place.”

“The teambuilding activities got people smiling, communicating; everybody pitched in. Bottom line - that was our

goal, to create some cohesion, mixing everybody up, officers, junior enlisted, senior enlisted, all from different sections and components, mission accomplished,” Williams said.

According to Williams, the feedback from the training was positive and the 311th now plans to make this a quarterly or bi-annual training.

“In the next training, we will try to think of a way to incorporate our civilian sector,” Williams said. “Once we get the civilians involved in this team building activity, we will have completely involved our 311th team.”



*Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command (Theater), a multi-component command that includes Active, Reserve and Active Guard Reserve component Soldiers, work together towards a common goal of communication and teambuilding during “One Voice” training. (Above) Brig. Gen. William Scott leads the day’s training with a One Voice motivational run. (Top right) Reserve Soldier Spc Geraldine Solia addresses the 311th during (photos by Capt. Liana Mayo, 311th Public Affairs)*



# 41ST MIST

# "TOWERS"

# OVER

# SEOUL.

Photo by Cpt. Christopher M. Stacy, S-3, 516th Signal Brigade.

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion Maintenance Support Team (MST) conducted a quarterly five day tower training week June 7 at Camp Morse. From left to right are Private 1st Class Roy Elliot, Private 1st Class Lindsey Collins, Staff Sgt. Henry Tye, and Sgt. 1st Class Derek Woodson training on the Camp Morse tower.



Story and photos by: Sgt. 1st Class Derek Woodson,  
41st Signal Battalion

In the hazy skies of Seoul, Korea, the maintenance support team swung from radio towers suspended high above the ground in order to accomplish a training mission.

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 41st Signal Battalion Maintenance Support Team (MST) conducted a quarterly five day tower training week June 7 at Camp Morse. This training exercise begins in a classroom environment and then transitions into more extensive hands on portion at the base of the tower. The main focus of this training consisted of harness safety, preventative maintenance checks and services of harness equipment, fall safety, tower rescue training, and tower rappelling.

This training exercise is designed for Soldiers and other personnel who work directly with towers throughout Korea and also trains future instructors.

The training provides Soldiers with the required skills to safely recognize, evaluate and control hazards related to tower work while bolstering confidence in equipment. It also teaches Soldiers the proper climbing techniques, proper selection of fall protection equipment and how to properly set up rescue equipment and rescue a victim if hanging from a tower or if stuck at the top of the tower with broken

equipment.

“It was very informative tower safety training. It showed us the importance of how to use the safety gear while climbing a tower.” said Staff Sgt. Henry Tye, one of the noncommissioned officers in charge with HHD, 41st Signal Battalion MST.

Soldiers who participated in this training not only sharpened their skills they also increased their confidence within themselves and amongst their equipment. “It helped me overcome my fear of climbing towers. I also learned the proper procedures and safeties on how to do a rescue climbing the tower,” said Private 1st Class Lindsey Collins.

“It was exciting training on the tower and having an amazing view of Korea. It was also great learning about the safety involving climbing and learning how to rappel down the tower,” said Private 1st Class Elliot.

The tower training conducted at Camp Morse was a great learning experience for the MST Soldiers. It taught them how to properly conduct Preventive Maintenance Checks and Service (PMCS) on critical equipment, tower rescue training, and rappelling. It also familiarized them with working at heights of more than 150 ft. The techniques and safety procedures practiced during their five-day study will significantly help them in their professional development and possibly save lives in the future.





# BEST OF THE BEST

## Both 311th NCO and Soldier of the Year win NETCOM Warrior Challenge



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Ty Patrick (center), representing 311th Signal Command (Theater), is congratulated by Maj. Gen. Jennifer L. Napper (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald W. Williams, NETCOM commanding general and command sergeant major, after he was selected as the NETCOM 2012 NCO of the Year (Right) Spc. Richard Wyce, NETCOM Soldier of the year, is congratulated by Williams and Napper.

Photo by Eric Hortin, NETCOM



Photo by Eric Hortin, NETCOM



By Crista Mary Mack,  
311th Signal Command

**F**ORT SHAFTER, Hawaii- Sgt. 1st Class Ty Patrick and Spc. Richard Wyce, the 311th Signal Command (Theater)'s 2012 Non-commissioned officer of the year and Soldier of the year, respectively, both placed first at the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command 2012 NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year competition June 12-15.

Patrick and Wyce represented the best of the best from the Pacific Signal units and now represent the entire Signal Corps.

Both Soldiers are from the 516th Signal Brigade, Wyce is from B Co 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Helemanu Military Reservation, Hawaii and Patrick from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 59th Signal Battalion, Joint Base Elemendorf/Richardson, Alaska.

Both 78th Sig. Bn. and 307th ESB report to the 516th Signal Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Other top competitors representing Signal units

throughout the Pacific convened in May to tackle four days of challenging events at the 2012 311th SC (T) Best Warrior Competition.

Ten competing Soldiers and NCOs flew from as far as Alaska and Korea to compete in the annual competition.

"To reach this level of competition, these warriors demonstrated dedication to duty and a thirst for excellence," said 311th Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Thompson. "Each year, we try to out do what we did the year prior, so when you look at the quality of events, how it's set up, the equipment, effort, and how it's put together. I'm very proud of the 311th participating Soldiers and NCOs and it was an honor and privilege to witness their hard work and perseverance."

Thompson said one of the factors that makes 311th Warrior Challenge so unique among other Army Warrior Challenges is that the 311th is a multi-component unit. This means that it has Active and



Reserve Soldiers all under the same command, and therefore accepts competing Soldiers from both the Active and Reserve components of the Army.

The 311th Commanding General Brig. Gen. William Scott and Thompson welcomed competing Soldiers with an icebreaker luncheon at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena. Immediately following the luncheon, the competition kicked off with a written exam and essay.

In addition to the written portion, competitors kicked off day two with an Army Physical Fitness Test followed by a morning filled with a variety of Army Warrior Tasks such as evaluating and evacuating a casualty and reacting to indirect fire. Several mystery tasks during the AWT portion of the competition included disassembling and reassembling an M249 machine guns, performing a functions check with a 9mm Beretta pistol, maintenance checks, performing tactical communications, and identifying wear and appearance of military uniform malfunctions. After completing these events, participating Soldiers engaged in an afternoon of Modern Army Combatives.

Additional challenges included a 12 km ruck march, both day and night urban orienteering, and a formal board with a panel of sergeants major.

"Best of the best means you have all the qualities in all the areas and you really are the Soldier that everyone expects to see. You're not just awesome at one thing and then get by on something else," said runner-up NCO of the Year Sgt. Christian Riley, 275th Sig. Co. 41st Sig. Bn, who flew from Camp Humphreys, Korea to compete.

"I think everyone should strive to make it to this level and past. You really find out a lot about yourself and you really improve yourself." The NCO in charge of the event, Master Sgt. Rodney Kelley, concurred.

"It is worthwhile to try to be better than your peers to your left and to your right. You can always be better, you can always improve yourself," said Kelley.

"We're bringing the best from our brigades, the best from our Reserve component units, bringing all these Soldiers together, letting them compete against each other in rigorous competition to determine who is going to represent us well at the next level," said Kelley.



Pictured above (from left to right) The 2012 311th Signal Command (Theater) Best of the Best Warrior Competition competitors pose at Fort Shafter's Hale Ikena. Pictured are, from left to right, Spc. Travis Anderson, 311th SC, Private 1st Class Joseph Hardemon, 501st Sig. Co., 36th Sig. Bn, Camp Humphreys, Korea, Sgt. Christian Riley, 275th Sig. Co. 41st Sig. Bn, Headquarters Detachment, Spc. Chandler, 311th SC (SU) Costa Mesa, Sgt. 1st Class Ty Patrick, 59th Signal Battalion, Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson, Alaska, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey D. Fox, 311th SC (SU) Costa Mesa, Spc. Coca Temoananui, 311th SC, Sgt. Kimo Anderson, 311th SC, Sgt. Arturo Ornelas Jr. 311th SC, and Spc. Richard Wyce, B Co 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Photo by Eric Hortin NETCOM PAO





Marconi is the inventor of the radio.  
Photo courtesy of gb2m.yolasite.com



## You can't spell Marconi without M. A. R.



By Maj. Glenn Medlock,  
Executive Officer, 30th Signal Battalion  
Photos by 1st Lt. Kenneth Deberry

**S**CHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii- Members of the 30th Signal Battalion's 396th Signal Company, "Wolfpack," proudly represented Oahu's Military Auxiliary Radio System or commonly called MARS as the installation's Gateway Station Six team, during the 62nd Annual U. S. Armed Forces Day nationwide celebration, held here on May 19th.

The observation, conducted every third Saturday in May, is decreed by Presidential Proclamation as an attempt to increase public understanding and appreciation of the nation's Armed Forces. To this end, several activities took place across the island of Oahu, including a multi-national tradition celebrating global communications. It was this contemporary application of the law of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor of the radio, and long distance transmission system that drew the focus of the four Wolfpack members comprising the Gateway Station Six team.

Team members were happy to volunteer their Saturday to participate in the military-to-amateur cross band communications voice test, and to earn a special commemorative certificate by copying and

transcribing a Secretary of Defense message via digital modes.

The tests offer licensed amateur radio operators—also known as ham radio operators, and Short Wave Listeners the opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive Secretary of Defense and/or appropriate military radio station recognition for their expertise.

During the exercise, civilian radio hams attempt to contact military stations in an effort to demonstrate their individual technical skills. They must pass examinations varying in degrees of difficulty in order to obtain privileged classes of licenses. Query Station Location or QSL cards are provided to those stations making contact with military stations. Communication between MARS locations and ham operators is accomplished on numerous bands,



396th Signal Company Radio Operator/Maintainers and Gateway Station 6 Team Members Spc. Christopher Graben (foreground) and Spc. Samuel Lopez make adjustments to the Mobile Communications Kit engineered and constructed by the unit, in preparation for MARS communication tests held as part of Armed Forces Day celebration activities on Schofield Barracks, May 19th.



396th Signal Company Radio Operator/Maintainer and Gateway Station 6 Team Member Spc. Samuel Lopez checks the frequency of the Mobile Communications Kit engineered and constructed by the unit, in preparation for MARS communication tests held as part of Armed Forces Day celebration activities on Schofield Barracks, May 19th.

extending from 1.8 megahertz upwards through several hundred gigahertz.

The Gateway Station 6 team made this year's event especially notable by unveiling their Mobile Communications Kit. Engineered and constructed by 396th Signal Company Soldiers, the Mobile Communications Kit enables the team to deploy strategically, and communicate via High Frequency, and Very High Frequency.

The Mobile Communications Kit V3 was created to enhance the MARS Gateway Six's radio coverage of the island of Oahu. It enables the fixed site, located on Schofield Barracks, to communicate with an area of the island that may lie in a dead spot—or an area with little or antenna coverage.

The data side of the Mobile Communications Kit V3 is handled by the partnership of the PTC-IIpro PACTOR modem and a laptop utilizing AirMail software, a radio mail program for sending and receiving messages via PACTOR over HF radio. This software transmits data at a rate of 57600 baud—or one bit per second—over the HF frequency band. It works the same as the AirMail system at the fixed site, only it is now mobile. It is currently undergoing beta testing.

The Kit proved not only effective but fun and

educational.

"I enjoyed being a part of the development and testing of the Mobile Communications Kit. The lessons I learned throughout the entire process are ones that will help me in my career," said MARS operator Spc. Jonathan Robertson after the tests. Spc. Samuel Lopez, another operator, found the Kit and its creation a truly rewarding experience.

"I enjoy the challenge of tackling something new and simultaneously expanding the capabilities of the MARS Gateway 6 team," said Lopez. "I wanted to see if we could push the boundaries of our current technology and see where it could take us."

Future plans for version 4, or V4, of the Mobile Communications Kit include a power inverter, a battery charger, and a 12V battery. This will give the kit true mobility with no external power source requirement. The addition of a 12 volt battery will allow the whole kit to run for an estimated three to five hours on its own, without recharging. The inverter will supply power to the power supply, while the remaining equipment runs directly off the inverter,

itself. The battery charger will recharge the 12V battery when the voltage becomes low or when an external power source is available.

MARS remains a vital component for communications as a viable emergency option for military and civilian agencies alike. During natural disasters such as hurricanes—and more recently, earthquakes—when the Internet and antenna and cell towers failed to provide crucial emergency communications, radio

communications have prevailed.



The MARS Gateway Station 6 team made this year's event especially notable by unveiling their Mobile Communications Kit. Member include (from left): 396th Signal Company Radio Operator/Maintainers Staff Sgt. Kent Hutton, Spc. Samuel Lopez, and Spc. Christopher Graben. Not shown is fourth team member Spc. Jonathan Robertson.

## What is MARS?

The Military Auxiliary Radio System is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the Army, Navy and Air Force. The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications. They contribute to the MARS mission providing auxiliary or emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an addition to normal communications.



# 30th Signal Battalion shows true colors with DA AAME win



By Maj. Glenn Medlock,  
Executive Officer,  
30th Signal Battalion

**W**HHEELER ARMY AIR FIELD, Hawaii—  
The autumn months are often viewed as a time of transition. The days become a little shorter, the temperature gets a little colder, and the leaves begin to show their different colors. This year, the trees were not the only ones making a change. Every year, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Signal Battalion co-located here and on Schofield Barracks, competes for and wins the U.S. Department of the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence at the Brigade and major command levels, improving every year.

This year, for the first time, the unit was nominated to compete at the DA-level competition and showed their true colors with an impressive victory for fiscal year 2011, in the Tables of Distribution and Allowance/Medium Unit Category.

The AAME recognizes outstanding accomplishments and initiatives in field-level maintenance, improvement and sustainment of unit maintenance readiness, assessment of total unit maintenance readiness, and improvements in the areas of efficiency, and waste reduction.

Through a year-long process of preparing for the competition, the battalion improved in several areas. The Brigade S-4 assisted by reviewing the unit's maintenance processes and procedures, and conducting pre-inspections. Outstanding leadership from Battalion Maintenance Non-commissioned Officer in Charge Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Holloway, Company Maintenance/Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced Non-commissioned officer/Operator Sgt. Kahealani Howard, and the hardworking Nuclear, Biological and Chemical and Armor NCOs brought all areas of the HHD maintenance program into rhythm, creating a winner.

“This program has placed renewed emphasis on the importance of unit maintenance for all members of the command, Soldiers and Civilians alike,” Holloway said.

“I was originally shocked!” admitted Wanda Chambliss, 30th Signal Battalion S-4, recalling her reaction to the DA level win. “I’m proud that we won ... we have been trying for five years to win the AAME. When I

arrived at the 30th Signal Battalion, the Maintenance Program was in bad shape. What we’ve learned over the past five years is that we need consistency in order to make the program effective. We need emphasis from the top down, and we need a Maintenance NCOIC and a maintenance teams that invest their time and effort into making the program function



Sgt. Kahealani M. Howard (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Lisa M. Holloway, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, proudly representing the 30th Signal Battalion at the event in Washington, D.C., pose in front of the 2012 CLEA Awards Ceremony banner.



Spc. Lashawn Parker, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Signal Battalion and Staff Sgt. Beau Prine, Alpha Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, conduct hands-on instructions Preventive Checks and Maintenance Services on the AN/MJQ-37 which includes the Generator Set PU-798 and PU 799 Trailer Platform during weekly motor stables. Left: Spc. Rena Griffin of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Signal Battalion conducts drinking from the canteen using the M40 Protective Mask during the CBRNE exercise, to ensure confidence of the M40 Preventive Checks and Maintenance Services. (Photos by Sgt. Kahealani Howard, HHD, 30th Sig Bn Maintenance NCO.)

and holding everyone accountable for their area of responsibility.”

“We’ve had that for the past three years with Sgt. First Class Lisa Holloway as the Maintenance NCOIC, and Sgt. Kahealani Howard as the Maintenance Clerk/SAMSE Operator,” Chambliss emphasized. “I am proud that, as the S-4, I played a small part in their success by providing them the platform to create one of the best maintenance programs in the Army for FY 11!”

Holloway and Howard represented HHD, 30th Signal Battalion at the 2012 Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony in Washington DC, on the 9th of June where they received the AAME on behalf of the unit. Howard summed up what this experience has meant to her by adding, “I’m so proud we won this award. It shows that when you have command emphasis, clear direction, and highly motivated Soldiers, completion of any mission or tasks are achievable. I’m honored to have been a part of this and will take my experiences here throughout my military career.”

The AAME win marked a

transition of another kind for Holloway. After over 20 years of service to the Army, Holloway will be retiring in the fall. At her recent retirement and farewell celebration, she received a framed print from the Combined Logistics Excellence Award ceremony as a commemoration to her contribution in winning this prestigious award, as well as an Aloha from her Hawaii Army family. Holloway expressed that she was so grateful to her real family for the way that they have supported her throughout her career and grateful to her Army family for making her the person she is today.”

When asked what it meant for her to represent her unit at the award ceremony so close to her transition out of the Army, Holloway simply said, “It’s always good to go out on top!”



Sgt. Kahealani M. Howard (second from left), Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 30th Signal Battalion, receives the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence from General Lloyd J. Austin III, Army Vice Chief of Staff (left) on behalf of the Battalion, 5 June, 2012, in Washington D.C.



# SMART Scholars Team up with 311th for Summer Internships



ABOVE: Nathan Hahn and Meridee Burnett were awarded SMART scholarships to pursue their academic interests with the 311th Signal Command for a summer paid internship.



Story by *Chessee Yee*  
311th Signal Command, PAO

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii -- Two SMART scholars received sponsored summer internships on the island of Oahu with the 311th SC(T).

Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation – the SMART Scholarship-for-Service Program is part of a concentrated Department of Defense effort to improve the flow of new, highly skilled technical labor into DoD facilities and agencies. In support of the commander’s intent to enrich our dynamic, growing signal team, the 311th Signal Command (Theater) participates as a sponsor/hiring organization in cooperation with the SMART Program, a part of the National Defense Education Program.

Meridee Burnett just completed her junior year at the University of Arkansas. She spent the summer of 2012 on Oahu for her second summer internship and began her full time federal service commitment after she graduates next May. Meridee was one of 3,300 students nation-wide who applied in December 2009, and one of 1,500 student semi-finalists who underwent the many steps in the selection process to be sponsored.

Though her university does not offer an Information Assurance major, she has been able to pursue her interest by working a variety of assignments in the Information Assurance area of study; significantly she has refined and gained knowledge from different levels of the organization.

This summer she was joined by another SMART scholar,

Nathan Hahn, who worked with in the 4th Signal Center (Theater Network Operations and Security Center) Enterprise Services Division. Nathan’s software and programming skills were well received in his assignment to develop a reporting tool and trend analysis for trouble tickets and also reviewed and assessed the Army Enterprise IT Asset Management database. Nathan’s reflection says it best,

“Working for the 311th definitely met and exceeded my expectation,” Hahn said. “I was given a significant amount of autonomy on the project I was working on, which surprised me, and really gave me the chance to put my skills to good use.”

Nathan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. After he graduates in 2014, he will have a continued service agreement with the 311th Signal Command where he hopes to work with RCERT and understand their role in the Signal Command.



Want to be a SMART intern?  
See eligibility requirements below:

All awardees must be:

- a U.S. citizen at time of application,
- 18 years of age or older as of August 1, 2013,
- able to participate in summer internships at DoD laboratories,
- willing to accept post-graduate employment with the DoD,
- a student in good standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (as calculated by the SMART application) and,
- pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in one of the disciplines listed on the About SMART page.

For more information, go to <http://smart.asee.org>  
Applications for 2013 closes December 14, 2012



# Academic and Training Opportunities

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.” ~ Henry Ford



Story by Chelsee Yee  
311th Signal Command, PAO

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii -- The 311th Signal Command, known for its multi-component team of Active component and Reserve Soldiers, is given another opportunity to showcase the achievements of their Civilian workers who bring their expertise, experience, and commitment to the team.

This year, 311th's Information Assurance Manager, Shannon Walsh, won a scholarship for one of the best masters programs in her field. After she was accepted to Norwich University, she applied and was granted a centrally funded scholarship through NETCOM under the Academic Degree Training Program.

Ms. Walsh's online curriculum began Sept. 3 while she continued to work full-time. At the end of the program, she will travel to Vermont for a one-week residency and graduation ceremony in June 2014. Ms. Walsh will be required to maintain a "B" average for the duration of her studies and will have a continuous service agreement for three times the length of the training period at the end of her program of studies. Academic degree training is truly an opportunity that will support and enhance the performance of duty.

"The important thing with Information Assurance is that right now this is a cyber security or an information security. It has exploded to almost as big as technology has," Walsh said.

After computers and technology continued to evolve into what we know as our current Internet age, information security, in turn, has also increased in importance.

"It kind of touches every area, every day-to-day business," she said. "It doesn't really matter where you're working, and it's not just the computers -- it's everybody that uses them."

Civilians are encouraged to review and submit for training opportunities and professional development through their proper chain of command and functional career representative. For more information on Academic Degree Training, to include other opportunities for skill and professional development visit: <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/catalog/>



ABOVE: IA Manager, Shannon Walsh, begins her online program Sept. 3 as she continues to work full-time at the 311th Signal Command, keeping focus on information security.





# HHC, 307th ESB makes Creepy Crawlers Fun for Special Olympians



By Sgt. First Class Jessica Berg and Lin Clark Miller  
307th ESB and 516th Signal Battalion

**H**ELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii—Members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion have been spotted playing with insects recently in locations across Oahu. Sixteen Soldiers and one Department of the Army Civilian employee volunteered more than 125 hours of their time, while numerous family members supplemented their efforts at Hawaii Special Olympics Program Play Days held at Nanakuli High School, Mililani District Park, and Manoa District Park, on March 28, April 5, and April 13, respectively.

“Creepy Crawlers” was the theme at the most recent series of Special Olympics Hawaii Play Days. Pre-school-aged Special Education students practiced their cognitive skills by throwing, hitting, and finding bugs, bugs, and more bugs! (Disclaimer: plastic, rubber and foam species of the genus were used; no actual bugs were injured during these events.) Games ranged from digging through a ball pit to find spiders, to tossing frogs into a basket, to dancing inside a giant



bubble bug, to identifying different types of bugs while participating in the different activity stations. All brought smiles to the faces of the children, parents, teachers, and Soldiers. There were over 40 activity stations at each play day event—so many that students had a hard time trying out every game. Fortunately, more play days are planned in the future.

Event volunteers said they found the events as fulfilling as the participants found them fun.

“Paying it forward is what we do in HHC,” said 1st Sgt. Matthew Baker, HHC, 307th ESB. “Our Soldiers give 110 percent, not only in uniform but out. Community involvement is something we are extremely

proud of, and seeing the expressions on the children’s, family members,’ and Soldiers’ faces as we go to different events is something that is truly remarkable.”

Cindy Ujimori, Director of Volunteer and Corporate Relations for Special Olympics Hawaii, expressed her sincere gratitude for 307th ESB member participation in the events, by sending out this message:

“Thank you very much for volunteering, as well as coordinating all the wonderful Army Volunteers for our 2012 Play Days! Please know that your hard work and support was amazing and we truly appreciate everything you did to make this event possible! Please let your volunteers know that the teachers and parents of these wonderful and amazing Special Education Pre-Schoolers asked me to pass along their sincere appreciation to you all. So many activities are out there for regular education students, but there are so few events for Special Ed students, so it makes what you did even more special! We hope you all enjoyed yourselves, I know that the children did!”



Military, civilian and family member volunteers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion joined Play Day pre-school children in finding bugs at some of the many indoor activities available at the 2012 Special Olympics Hawaii “Creepy Crawly” event, held at Mililani District Park Gym, on April 5th. (Photo by SFC Jessica Berg, IT Specialist, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion)

# 307th ESB Arbor Day Celebration



Staff Sgt. George Hohnsbehn from 251st Signal Detachment read to the kids in support of the Asia- American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month at Hannam Village Library, May 23. Photo courtesy 1st Signal Brigade.

## 251st Signal Detachment **READS** to the Kids



Story and Photos by  
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

**YONGSAN, Korea-** The Soldiers of the 251st Signal Detachment, in an effort to reach out to the Hannam Community, organized a book reading at the Hannam library May 9 and 23. With the support the 1st Sig. Bde. Equal Opportunity Advisor Master Sgt. Edgar Robinson, Sonja Basman and the Hannam Library staff, and members of the 251st Signal Detachment Sgt 1st Class John Vernau, Staff Sgt. George Hohnsbehn, Sgt. Gladis Aucapina, and Sgt. Christopher Everette, the book reading was a success.

The book reading was in support of the Asian-American/ Pacific Islander Heritage Month Observance. Families and children from the Yongsan area participated in arts, crafts, sing along songs, dancing, and of course, story time. Soldiers of the 251st volunteered their time out of their day to contribute to the fun and enjoyment by reading books like Llama Llama, Curious George and various other titles.

The activities were led by Sonja Basman and her assistant. Basman and her assistant perform activities with the library at Hannam once a week, keeping the children entertained between the readings. The two events were a huge success with the children, appreciated by the parents, and enjoyed by the Soldiers.



HELEMANU MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii - In honor of Arbor Day 2012, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion 1st Sgt. Mathew Baker (on left brlow) and Company Commander Capt. Neal J. McDonald plant a tree at Helemanu Military Reservation. The tree planted at HMR was one of four planted throughout the island of Oahu at military installations to commemorate Arbor Day. Other trees were planted at Fort Shafer, Aliamanu Military Reservation and Wheeler Army Airfield. Trees were donated from the Tree City USA Arbor Day Foundation and Island Palm Community.



Photo s by Crista Mary Mack



Dan the Safety Man Says:



## Motorcycle Awareness Safety Campaign

U.S. Army Soldiers of 311th Signal Command take a break during the motorcycle mentorship ride in Kailua, Hawaii. Soldiers conduct this ride quarterly so experienced riders can share their motorcycle knowledge with beginning riders.

# "Helping drivers stay alert on the roadways"



Story by Daniel Clark  
311th Signal Command (Theater)

Engagement, whether among Leaders and Soldiers or Soldiers and their peers is working and most riders are doing the right things to stay safe on the road. In an effort to heighten awareness among all vehicle operators who share-the-road a motorcycle awareness safety campaign "Look Twice" has been initiated at command level.

The program is intended to elevate everyone's awareness and responsibilities while operating a vehicle on the roadway. Not only are we responsible to see and avoid as a driver but, also as a passenger. Help the driver stay alert to all motorists on the roadways, including motorcycles. Motorcycles are difficult to see, especially in blind spots behind you and/or can be masked by another vehicle to the front or side.

In support of this campaign, brigade, battalion and company commanders are challenged to discover and share methods for increasing motorcycle safety awareness within their respective areas of operation. The program consists of two clipboards located in vicinity of the unit safety board. One clipboard contains all of the Preliminary Loss Reports (PLRs) of motorcycle fatalities for the fiscal year. The other clipboard consists of articles of

interest for all vehicle operators.

The intent of this program is for all personnel to have access to the (PLRs) to heighten awareness of the increasing trend of motorcyclist fatalities. Files in the "LOOK TWICE" motorcycle safety awareness campaign contain the tragic stories of Soldiers, Fathers, Spouses, and friends who have lost their lives in preventable POM accidents. Some operators fell victim to their own indiscipline and others fell victim to those who failed to "Look Twice" while sharing the road.

The Progressive Motorcycle Program is established in AR 385-10, paragraph 11-9(b). Each level of Command must recognize and ensure their Soldiers are incorporated into a Motorcycle Mentorship Program whether that program is at unit, battalion, brigade, or garrison/installation level.

The progressive program is established to ensure that every motorcycle operator is provided refresher training every three years. The initial phase of the program requires two courses within the 1st year. The 1st course is the Basic Rider Course (BRC). Within 1 year the operator must complete the 2nd course consisting of the Experienced Rider Course (ERC/MSF BRC II) or Military Sportbike Riders

Course (MSRC) depending on the type of motorcycle. The rider then enters the Sustainment training phase which consists of successful completion within the next three years of the ERC/MSF BRC II or MSRC.

The second phase is repeated every three years. Additionally, if after a 3-year period of inactivity, the acquisition of a new or change in motorcycle(s), or a major geographic relocation, operators shall complete sustainment training. Motorcycle Refresher Training (MRT) will be required after a deployment lasting 180 days or longer.

## Questions or Comments?

Contact your 1SG or get in touch with one of the command senior motorcycle mentors at:

MSG Kelley  
DSN (315) 438-2194  
rodneya.kelley.mil@mail.mil

Dan Clark (Safety Director)  
DSN (315) 438-2387  
daniel.ennis.clark@us.army.mil



Friends

of

KATUSAs



Story by Cpl. Ji-Seong Lee  
1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs

The 2012 annual KATUSA U.S. Soldier Friendship Week began April 16, hosted by the Republic of Korea Army Support Group, kicking off with an opening ceremony at Lombardo Field with a color guard demonstration along with performances by the 8th Army Band and a Korean Honor Guard drill.

KATUSA stands for Korean Augmentation to the United States Army.

The week-long festivities included various sporting events and culture exchanges where 1st Signal Brigade Soldiers and KATUSA's participated, such as soccer, softball, ssi-reum (Traditional Korean Wrestling), 5K team marathon, tug-of-war, and all ranks relay. Each team was required to have a minimum number of KATUSA's, U.S. male and female Soldiers in each game, encouraging Soldiers to be cohesive.

"I won my last set but unfortunately, our team lost on the first match. Overall, I think it's a great experience for us to learn and enjoy each other through sports and culture exchanges", said Sgt. Aspen

Kukulka, of 1st Sig. Bde., Operations, who participated in the ssi-reum tournament. "I did enjoy it. I wish we moved up a little more. I think I was pretty good," said Kukulka.

Cultural events and entertaining also brought attention where Soldiers and KATUSA's experienced making kimbap and kimchi, and visual demonstration



of Taekkyun, a type of Korean martial art similar to Tae-kwon-do. A team from 1st Signal also won 2nd at the KUFW 2012 talent show which consisted of four Soldiers, Sgt. McKintosh, Joint Command Information Systems Activity, Cpl. Ki-Seung Lee, Public Affairs, HHC, 1st Signal Brigade, Cpl. Yong-Ha Kwon, Video Camera Engineer, American Forces Network, and Pfc. Young-Ik Son, JCISA, who performed various vocals and dances.

Including 1st Signal Brigade, (total of nine units), 176th Finance Battalion, 595th Maintenance Company, Headquarter and Headquarters Company U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, 22nd Aviation Battalion, 65th Medical Brigade, 94th Military Police Battalion, 501st Military Intelligence Brigade, and Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion participated in this year's KUFW.



# Standup for the Cure



Story and Photos by Sgt. Keith R. Lawson  
311th Signal Command (Support Unit)

**N**EWPORT BEACH, California- On May 5, 2012, a team of Soldiers of the 311th Theater Signal Command (Support Unit) from Costa Mesa, California took part in “Standup for the Cure” and simultaneously provided direct support for a Guinness Book World Record.

“Standup for the Cure” is a paddleboard race with proceeds that go to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against breast cancer. This event was held at the Newport Dunes Resort in nearby Newport Beach, California. Hundreds of people came out to support and volunteer to make this event possible.

With the help and support from everyday people from all walks of life, the Standup for the Cure raised over \$60,000 dollars

at this single day event. The official count was 414 participants in the water to set a new world’s record for the largest stand up paddleboard lesson.

The guest speakers were actual breast cancer survivors who had participated and interacted with the Soldiers who had served as event officials and were in charge of making sure the exact count was precise and accurate.

The local community welcomed the Soldiers from the 311th Theater Signal Command with open arms and with the upmost respect. The event was founded by Rob and Judy Vivian from Maui, Hawaii.

The local community welcomed the Soldiers from the 311th Theater Signal Command with open arms and with the upmost respect. The event was founded by Rob and Judy Vivian from Maui, Hawaii.



(ABOVE) From left to right: Maj. Senen Besa, Capt. Melissa Barrows, Spc. Samud Santibout, Spc. Nick Tran, Col. Curtis Mattison, Spc. Jose Cadena, Lt. Col. Victor Bakkila, Sgt. 1st Class Napoleon Guevara, Staff Sgt. Daniel Hunter, Sgt. Angel Coronado, and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Camarena pause for a photo at the Standup for the Cure event.



(RIGHT) Photo collage courtesy of TSC, SU-P.



# Motivated Battle Buddies tackle mountains, setbacks



Former Combat Flight Medic Jacob Birkholz (left), and battle buddy Staff Sgt. Trevor Jones, Installation Processing Node non-commissioned officer in charge, 59th Signal Battalion, Ft Richardson, Alaska, stand on the summit of Uhuru Peak, the highest summit on Mt. Kilimanjaro's highest crater rim (19,341 feet). Jones' goal is to be the first active duty Soldier to climb each of the 7 continental summits. (Photo by Godson Elisamia)



By Lin Clark Miller,  
516th Signal Brigade Project Specialist

**M**T KILIMANJARO, Africa—Twenty-nine-year-old Staff Sgt Trevor Jones is climbing mountains again, and this time he brought along his battle buddy.

The installation processing node non-commissioned officer in charge at the 59th Signal Battalion, Fort Richardson, Alaska, and an avid climber, Jones is nearly halfway to his goal of becoming the first Active-Component Soldier to conquer the highest summit of each continent. Jones' best friend, former Combat Flight Medic Sgt. Jacob "Jake" Birkholz, 27, joined him as he summited number three, here, earlier this year.

Mount Kilimajaro stands 19,341 feet high, and normally takes six days to climb. Pushing each other, it took the pair less than four days to best a route utilized by fewer than 15 climbers a year, leading their guides to brag to their peers about their two American "Mountain Goats."

Inviting Birkholz to climb the African peaks was a no brainer. Birkholz and Jones spent several weeks in Alaska doing numerous hikes, mountain climbs, even cross-country skiing to get in some last-minute training.

The two met at Fort Drum, New York, prior to their 2006-07 deployment to Afghanistan. Jones served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan, while Birkholz served one in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

"Jake is my best friend," Jones said. "We spent a lot of our free time together—'birds of a feather flock together.' He was the best man at my wedding in 2007. Last summer, when my Mom passed away, he immediately drove from Fort Drum to be there for me."

"This climb was my way to spend some quality time with Jake and help him have the time of his life," Jones shared.

Jones' project is two-fold: in addition to conquering the seven summits, he is raising funds and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit, non-partisan national organization that supports wounded Soldiers and their families during the healing process.

Jones hit upon the idea when he witnessed how beneficial the program was for his friends and fellow Soldiers who had returned home wounded.

Birkholz, a wounded warrior himself, and Jones are grateful to the WWP and, as Birkholz calls them, "My Army brothers and sisters—the ones that kept me alive, and the ones who are still [saving lives today]..." referring to the medics responsible for his being here today.

"During the climbs, Jake and I encouraged each other when [one] was struggling," he went on. "There was no competition at all between us, just a team, working towards a mutual goal."

When the two friends reached the summit of Mount Kilimajaro, Birkholz was absolutely thrilled.

"This was his first high altitude climb," Jones said of Birkholz, afterwards, clearly proud of his friend's accomplishment.

According to Jones, the huge financial expense of the remaining climbs could be a mitigating factor, but the battle buddies will trek more mountains, in tandem. And ride and race bikes.

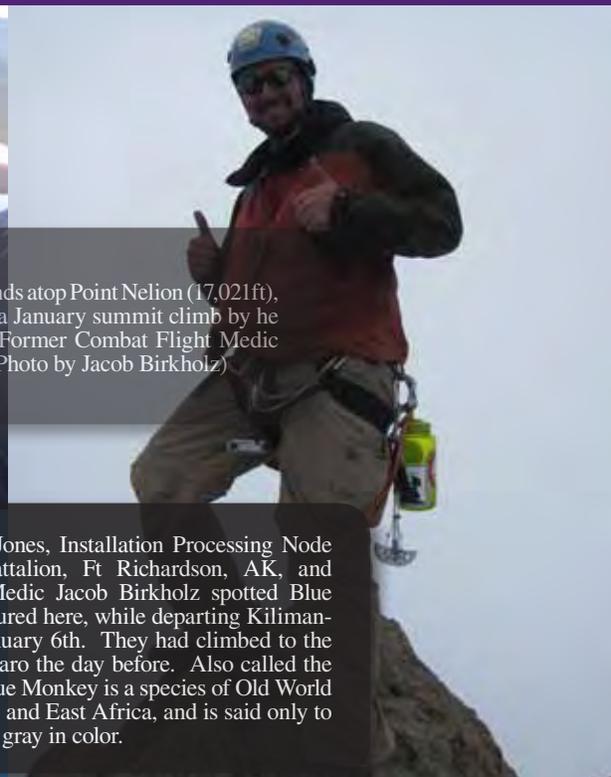
"Jake just spent two months riding a bicycle from Maine to Nebraska. In a few weeks I'll be heading down to the lower 48 (states) to finish that ride with him—from Nebraska to the Pacific Ocean: 1,700 miles."

Planning adventures together, and motivating each other to succeed at challenges is more important than ever to Jones. He said, simply, of his best friend: "He loves life."

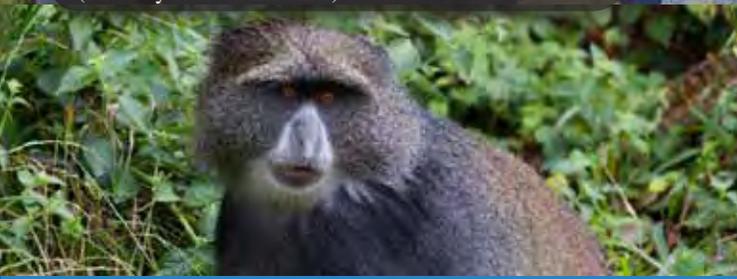
Birkholtz recalled preparations for the African mountain climbs to be more like a deployment than a mountaineering expedition. "For the two weeks before our departure [we] spent nearly every



ABOVE: Birkholz (left) and Jones (right) mug for the camera at about 11,000 feet, on the Macheme Route in Africa, with Kilimanjaro in the distant background. (Photo by Godson Elisamia)



RIGHT: Jones stands atop Point Nelion (17,021ft), Mt Kenya during a January summit climb by he and battle buddy Former Combat Flight Medic Jacob Birkholz. (Photo by Jacob Birkholz)



LEFT: Staff Sgt. Trevor Jones, Installation Processing Node NCOIC, 59th Signal Battalion, Ft Richardson, AK, and Former Combat Flight Medic Jacob Birkholz spotted Blue Monkeys like the one pictured here, while departing Kilimanjaro National Park, on January 6th. They had climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro the day before. Also called the Diademed monkey, the Blue Monkey is a species of Old World Monkeys native to Central and East Africa, and is said only to appear blue, but is olive or gray in color.

waking moment training and preparing for our trip. We cross-country skied, hiked and tested our gear. I wanted to make sure my sleeping bag would handle the cold encountered at the high elevations, so I spent a few nights bivied on Trevor's back porch in minus 10 degree weather."

The pair started their Kilimanjaro climb from Macheme Gate, at about 5,700 feet. Three hours after tackling very dense rainforest, they reached Macheme Camp at roughly 10,000 feet.

"I was astonished on day one of our hike to see the porters moving so efficiently," Birkholz related. "They were carrying 60 pounds of gear, outfitted with ill-fitting shoes and clothing."

The group made great time on the second day, getting to Shira Camp, at 12,400, in just three hours—faster than the suggested four to five hour time posted on a sign outside the camp. As on day two, the pair got up early on day three and scooted up to Arrow Camp, at 16,000 feet, again, in about three hours.

"The terrain, flora and fauna were things I had only seen in movies and magazines," Birkholz marveled. "Trevor and I took to the trails and climate changes rather quickly and impressed our guides with how spry we were. I guess they weren't used to westerners attacking their mountain with as much passion and vigor."

From Arrow Camp, Jones and Birkholz veered off the usual route, and headed for the summit via the western breach, considered the most difficult and dangerous route. After dinner and some shut-eye, the pair arose at midnight, ate a quick breakfast and headed up. "The route immediately became a 50 degree slope of rock, snow and scree," Jones recalled. "Footing was difficult and progress was slow, due to the fact that we have literally only been on the mountain for 50-something hours and we were already passing 17,000 feet—not to mention the cold air and darkness slow you down."

The climbers eventually reached the top of the breach by around 9 a.m. "At this point we had about 500 feet to go, but we could see across the crater," Jones described. "We [saw] several glaciers, and

the route up to the summit."

They summited the 19,341-foot Uhuru Peak, the highest summit on Mt. Kilimanjaro's highest crater rim at 11 a.m. on January 6th—just 70 hours after arriving at the national park. It was quite a feat, considering that six days is the amount of time it takes most to make the climb.

Trevor truly is a beast in the mountains!" Birkholz declared. "It was pretty funny, but after we were [back] down, our guide showed us off to other guides and was bragging about us." Jones said. "He [still] referred to us as 'Mountain Goats.'"

The next day, we celebrated with one of the most iconic beers I've ever [drunk], Birkholz recalled. "We [toasted] a 'Cheers!' and congratulations to a job well done."

After resting up for a day, Jones and Birkholz set off on the 9-hour bus ride to Kenya. Although 2,284 feet lower, Mt. Kenya proved to be much more of a challenge. "We did the smart thing and ended our climb just 11 meters from the top," said Jones, clarifying that those 11 meters would have taken five more hours, and involved climbing down and crossing a snow covered knife edge saddle at 17,000 feet.

Exhausted but not disappointed by unpredictable weather, the battle buddies are proud of their achievement, and will long remember their mountain climbing adventure.

So far, of his seven-summit quest Jones conquered Denali (Mount McKinley) on June 13th, 2009, Aconcagua on February 14, 2011—which he climbed solo when a fellow climber unexpectedly dropped out—and now Mount Kilimanjaro on January 6th of this year. He looks beyond reaching his own personal climbing goals, raising funds for WWP, and motivating his battle buddy to embrace all that life has to offer, and sends this message to any of his peers who may be stuck in a rut:

"I hope that what I do can inspire some of the younger Soldiers to get out of the barracks, put down the X-box controller and see the world," encouraged Jones. "There is so much out there."



# Mission to end homelessness

## 311th Theater Signal Command, Support Unit hosts the second annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down



Story by Maj. Jason J. Coughenour  
311th Signal Command (Theater)

**COSTA MESA, Calif.** – Centrally located and providing an excellent facility and grounds for a collaborative community outreach event, the Costa Mesa Reserve Center welcomed Veterans and their families for a three day affair Aug. 17.

As part of the mission to integrate and end homelessness for our nation's veterans the 311th Theater Signal Command, Support Unit hosted the second annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

During the opening ceremony, Brig. Gen. Robin Umberg (Ret.), CalVet Undersecretary for Veterans Homes and California State Senator Lou Correa were among several dignitaries recognizing veterans for their service and sacrifice in service to their country.

The hosting of the event was organized by Maj. Jason Coughenour, 311th TSC Detailed Inspector General, who is a senior federal employee of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and Deanne Tate, President and CEO of Veterans First. Contributions from the United States Marine Corps, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Social Security Administration, the County of Orange, Office of Health Care and the Public Defender's Office of the State of California, as well as many more private,

nonprofit and governmental organizations helped to make this event a success.

During the three day onsite event, Veterans were able to access basic services in medical, mental health, suicide prevention, substance abuse assistance and dental care in addition to social and employment services that included disability assistance through the Veterans Administration and Social Security. The attendees, free of charge, had access to civil and criminal legal services through the Orange County Superior Court and the Public Defender's Office and legal services provided by the legal aid society.

In addition to civil services, Veterans and their families were provided three hot meals a day, new linens and given accommodations to stay overnight in tents on site allowing them to take advantage of all the services offered. Active duty military members assisted as volunteer tent leaders and facilitators helping direct Veterans-in-need to showers, new clothing and grooming services. There were also activities for children.

In order to ensure the safety of the attendees and volunteers security was provided jointly by the 311th SC (SU) Military Police, Costa Mesa Police Department, the Marine Corps and Veterans First led by LTC Victor M. Bakkila, Command IG 311th SC also the Community Service Officer of the Costa Mesa Police Department and Staff Sergeant Jared Shirley, Military Police and Costa Mesa Police Officer.

The VIPs at the event included Miss OC of the Miss America Pageant, senior state, local and federal officials including elected officers from all levels of government in addition to community leaders and entertainers from throughout southern California.



Staff Sgt. Jared Shurely augmented the security team at the Stand Down, Aug. 17-19. In order to ensure the safety of the attendees, security was provided jointly by the 311th SC (SU) Military Police, Costa Mesa Police Department, and the Marine Corps and Veterans First (Photo by Sgt. Keith Lawson)

The VIPs at the event included Miss OC of the Miss America Pageant, senior state, local and federal officials including elected officers from all levels of government in addition to community leaders and entertainers from throughout southern California.



ABOVE: Veterans participating in the three day Stand Down event receive haircuts from volunteers, Aug. 17. More than 150 homeless veterans and their families received services from US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans First, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Army Reserve, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration, the County of Orange, Office of Health Care and the Public Defender's Office of the State of California, as well as many other private, nonprofit and governmental organizations. (Photo by Spc. David Seong)

This event recognizes and dignifies the difficulties our veterans and their families have when they feel left behind, as well as let them know they are not forgotten by their community or the military for the sacrifices that they have given for this country.

At the conclusion of the three day Stand Down several hundred homeless veterans and their families' received family assistance, numerous social service benefits and much needed medical care. Both the local and military community want to continue to recognize and dignify the difficulties our veterans and their families face in the present, as well as let them know they are not forgotten by their community or the military for the sacrifices that they have given for this country.

RIGHT: Command IG Lt. Col. Victor M. Bakkila of the 311th Signal Command and community service officer of the Costa Mesa Police Department speaks with a community leader, Aug. 17. In addition to providing security Bakkila represented Veterans First, the only nonprofit agency in Orange County to provide housing and support services to at-risk veterans and their families. (Photo by Sgt. Keith Lawson)



*Welcome Major General Alan R. Lynn*



Congratulations  
on your new command  
and your promotion to  
Major General

**Major General Alan R. Lynn**  
Commanding General,  
U.S. Army  
Network Enterprise Technology  
Command/9th Signal Command

*Welcome Major General James T. Walton*

Congratulations  
on your new command  
at the 311th Signal  
Command (Theater)

**Major General James T. Walton**  
Director, Chief Integration Office  
U.S. Army  
Office of the Army Chief Information  
Officer/G-6



# *A Heartfelt Farewell to a visionary Signal Regimental Soldier*



## **Lieutenant Colonel John Franklin Ingram 2 October 1965 – 2 July 2012**

Soldiers, Civilians and Families of the Signal Regiment and community bid a fond farewell to the U.S. Army, Pacific Information Assurance Director, Lt. Col. John Franklin Ingram, who passed on July 2.

In 1994, after completing the ADA Officer Advance Course, he served as the I Corps HQ Automations Director and the 20th Material Management Center Automation Division Chief. Additionally, Lt. Col. Ingram was the USA HQ EUCOM Information Chief, and deployed with the 1st Armored Division as the Division Automation Chief from September of 2002 to December of 2008.

Lt. Col. Ingram served with the 311th CG team from March 16, 2009 to March 15, 2010 before he went on to become the USARPAC IA Director.

As an honored role model, Ingram was a very active mentor for Signal officers and a fierce advocate for the regiment, which earned him the reputation for being an innovator, visionary and accomplished warrior.

“One of the Signal Corps Regiment’s finest officers, Lt. Col. Ingram was passionate about his work, and he cared deeply about everyone around him,” said Liana Mayo, Public Affairs Officer, 311th Signal Command. “He will be long remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing and working with such an impeccable example of a Soldier, husband, father, and friend.”

*You will be truly missed.*



ANNA VITKAUSKAS

SENIOR TECHNICAL  
ADVISOR, GS-15  
311TH SIGNAL COMMAND

—*Theater Voice*—  
*One Team!*

## Ya ! Chi'in-gu! Fellow Signaleers and Cyber Warriors ~

This edition of Premier Signal features news and information on our Pacific mission in Korea. South Korea is an integral component of our theater, with its own culture, language, dress and cuisine, separate and distinct from neighboring countries. Its national flag, T'aegukki, symbolizes the yin yang principle – seeking harmony and balance. This harmony and balance is relevant and paramount as we focus on the Asia Pacific region in the new defense strategy seeking peace and stability.

The Korea Joint Network Assessment is laying the foundation to transform South Korea into a joint network that is a major part of the global DoD and Dept. of Army programs to ensure that all communication requirements are met and meshed with the United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) Theater Synchronization Plan (TSP). The objective is a Joint Information Environment (JIE) delivering Information Technology services securely as a standards-based architecture for both our strategic and tactical forces. This supports DA strategic objectives for IT Management Reform (ITMR) to modernize and realize efficiencies, and also end-to-end management for network capabilities and IT services.

For my fellow Civilians, as we review IT Workforce rebalancing and redesign, continue to keep apprised of the Civilian Workforce Transformation (CWT), which can be found at [www.cwt.army.mil](http://www.cwt.army.mil). Approximately 99 percent of the civilian workforce has been assigned to a career program, providing access to centrally funded training resources and career development advice.

We must remain flexible, competent, motivated, educated, and focused forward to keep pace with the new realities facing an Army winding down after more than a decade of conflict. For your mental agility, review, assess, and apply Parkinson's Law of Triviality as appropriate.

At the user level, if you have migrated to Enterprise Email, you most likely will be receiving notification that your Army Knowledge Online (AKO) email account will be deleted. Please know that your AKO email address ([myaccount@us.army.mil](mailto:myaccount@us.army.mil)) is not being deleted or deactivated, it will be maintained and will continue to receive and forward messages to your enterprise email inbox. For more information visit: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/675388>. In addition, we are energized to issue DoD SIPRNet Common Access Cards, and in turn SIPRNet Enterprise Email.

Best wishes, mahalo, and aloha to the BG Scott family, it has been an honor to serve with you. MG Walton – welcome to our ohana, we look forward to your leadership as we support and defend our communications mission in the Pacific.

Pupukahi i holomua ~ (Unite to move forward)

ANNA VITKAUSKAS  
Senior Technical Advisor/Senior Civilian Advisor  
311th Signal Command (Theater)

# NOTES

## Aloha 311th family –

The end of FY12 has proven to be very eventful with the standing up of the Joint Readiness Cyber Center at Ford Island, the inactivation of the 58th Signal Battalion, and our unique Signal Corps Change of Command ceremony, which welcomed in our new Commanding General, MG James T. Walton.

The focus of this Autumn 2012 edition, Vol. 5, of our Premier Signal magazine is on the great things our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families are doing in Korea and on the ongoing Korea Joint Network Assessment of United States Forces Korea's infrastructure and modernization plans, which the USFK commander requested to ensure that they are in line with DoD and Army modernization initiatives and technological capabilities. The task force formed to conduct this assessment is a cooperative team of highly-qualified specialists and analysts from various DoD organizations, on which we are honored to have several 311th Soldiers and Civilians serve. I encourage all of our Soldiers – active and reserve – to take advantage of any opportunity to be a part of the 311th's missions in Korea.

As a Reserve officer, I would like to share with you some current trends in the Army Reserve right now, and upcoming changes for the near future. USARC is doing its best to mitigate the end-of-year funding shortages, and I don't anticipate that the 311th will be much affected by those. We all should understand, however, that the coming years will be financially leaner ones than what we have experienced recently. Suicide prevention and medical (including dental) readiness remain focus areas for the Army Reserve. I also encourage all enlisted Soldiers to pay close attention to the Structured Self Development program timelines and to be as proactive as you can in completing these courses.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in the 311th Signal Command's unique change of command ceremony on Fort Shafter's historic Palm Circle, during which Brig. Gen. William J. Scott passed the Signal orange flag of this great command to Maj. Gen. James T. Walton, who brings a wealth of experience from his former assignments, most recently as the Director, Chief Integration Office, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. Scott has been selected to serve as the Chief, C/J-6, for International Security Assistance Force, in Kabul, Afghanistan. We are grateful for the work he did to see our Pacific Integration efforts through and the tireless efforts his wife, Paula, dedicated to everything she did for our Families and Family Readiness Group. We wish them a fond farewell, a safe deployment, and look forward to serving with them in the future, as they are still a vital part of our Army Signal family.

Taking silent orders directed via wig-wag flags, the Army's historic semaphore signaling system, the Soldiers representing your units at the change of command were standing tall with your colors flying high, just as you continue to do in the garrison and battlefield environments around the Pacific region and the world. I am humbled and proud to serve as your Deputy Commander and to be a part of this multi-component team of outstanding professionals!

Theater Voice!



BRIGADIER GENERAL  
JANICE M. HAIGLER

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DEPUTY COMMANDING  
GENERAL,  
311TH SIGNAL COMMAND

—Theater Voice—  
One Team!

  
BRIGADIER GENERAL JANICE M. HAIGLER  
Deputy Commanding General,  
311th Signal Command (Theater)

# ONE TEAM!



USARPAC

USPAGOM



41<sup>ST</sup> SIG BN



36<sup>TH</sup> SIG BN



6<sup>TH</sup> SIG CTR



1<sup>ST</sup> Signal Brigade



58<sup>TH</sup> SIG BN



304<sup>TH</sup> ITSB



78<sup>TH</sup> SIG BN



333<sup>RD</sup> SIG CO



311<sup>TH</sup> Signal Command  
(Theater)



516<sup>TH</sup> Signal Brigade



4<sup>TH</sup> SIG CTR



30<sup>TH</sup> SIG BN



307<sup>TH</sup> ESB



59<sup>TH</sup> SIG BN



Theater SIG CMD  
Support Unit -  
Pacific (USAR)



9<sup>TH</sup> Signal Command  
NETCOM



ARFORCYBER

US CYBER  
COMMAND



OPERATING & DEFENDING  
ARMY CYBERSPACE THROUGH THE  
PACIFIC THEATER